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Meade, E. S. *The Story of Gold.* Pp. xv, 206. Price, 75 cents. New York: D. Appleton & Co., 1908.

Through all history gold has held a place more prominent than that of any other product of the earth. As the underlying reason for many voyages of exploration and discovery, as the impelling motive in the founding of colonies or waging wars of conquest, gold has played a significant role. At present, no less than in the past, the spell of gold possesses men's souls. The seeker after the mythical El Dorado four centuries ago is in spirit the brother of the "Forty-niner" or the "Klondiker." To-day the whole fabric of our complex industrial organization depends on the supply of this same noble metal. It is inevitable, therefore, that the story of gold should have a popular interest which few other stories can claim.

This volume outlines the development of the modern gold mining industry, paying especial attention to the close connection between its development and the every day world of business. In the first part four short chapters outline the importance of the subject, the occurrence of gold in nature and the methods of extraction. The rest of the book is devoted to the discussion of the gold supply and its relation to prosperity, the development of the industry during the last sixty years, especially in the United States, Australia and the Transvaal; the improvements on the technical side of the industry and the future of gold production. An appendix by John C. Duncan summarizes clearly the rather complex provisions of the chief mining laws in this country.

It is perhaps to be regretted that there is not more of the romantic side of the story told here, emphasizing more fully the power of gold in luring man to new lands and tempting him to face almost certain death in the hope of making a "lucky strike." It is evident, however, that the demands of space have prevented further elaboration of this phase of the subject beyond the mention accorded it in connection with a few of the most important gold discoveries.

The book is decidedly readable and most admirably suited to give the ordinary individual a sense of actual personal acquaintance with the gold industry. To the multitude, for whom mining stocks are irresistibly tempting, it is to be most strongly recommended as a book of useful information, interestingly written, and certain to prove a profitable investment.

WALTER S. TOWER.

University of Pennsylvania.

Osborn, Herbert. *Economic Zoology.* Pp. xv, 490. New York: Macmillan Company, 1908.

This somewhat radical departure from the usual texts on zoology makes another step forward in the tendency to treat scientific knowledge from the economic standpoint. In plan the book is not unlike many other texts on zoology. The accepted order of systematic classification is adopted, the book beginning with the protozoa and concluding with the mammals, con-